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done, by their gratuitous labors, to extend the knowledge of such marine and fresh-water animals of the United States as form the food of fishes. The present report is wholly practical in its nature, comprising an inquiry into the decrease of the food fishes, and the propagation of food fishes in the waters of the United States. Appended to the report are essays, mostly taken from foreign sources, on fisheries and fish culture in the Old World. These essays are very suggestive, and it is to be expected that the results of experiments and studies made by the present commission will lead to discoveries and records of equal value, should the commission be maintained by the government for a sufficient number of years.

HYATT'S NORTH AMERICAN SPONGES.¹ — The second part of this elaborate revision of our North American sponges contains a good many novel and interesting facts regarding the influence of temperature and the nature of the sea-bottom upon the growth, variation, and distribution of our useful sponges, as well as the mode of fishing for and preparing them for the market. Professor Hyatt regards the sponges as forming "a distinct sub-kingdom or branch of animals, equivalent structurally to the Vertebrata or any of the larger divisions which are characterized by the most important structural differences." The excellence of the plates shows how well photography may be applied to the delineation of these animals.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS. — Reconciliation of Science and Religion. By Alexander Winchell, LL. D. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1877. 12mo, pp. 403.

Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences. Vol. ii., Part I. January, 1876–June, 1877. Davenport, Iowa, July. 1877. 8vo, pp. 148. 3 plates.

Account of the Discovery of Inscribed Tablets. By Rev. J. Gass. With a Description by Dr. R. J. Farquharson. (Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences, vol. ii.) Davenport, Iowa, July, 1877. 8vo, pp. 23. 3 plates.

List of the Vertebrated Animals now or lately living in the Gardens of the Zoological Society of London. Sixth Edition. London. 1877. 8vo, pp. 519, with cuts.

Zur Morphologie des Tracheensystems. Von Dr. J. A. Palmén. Helsingfors. 1877. 8vo, pp. 149. 2 plates.

Annual Report of the Entomological Society of the Province of Ontario for the year 1876. Toronto. 1877. 8vo, pp. 58.

On the Dispersal of Non-Migratory Insects by Atmospheric Agencies. By Albert Müller (Basileensis). (Reprinted from Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 1871.) Basle. 1877. 8vo, pp. 16.

Report of the Director of the Central Park Menagerie, Department of Public Parks, City of New York, for year 1876. New York. 1877. 8vo, pp. 34.

Bathybius und die Moneren. Von Ernst Haeckel. 8vo, pp. 12. 1877.

Brehm's Thierleben. Bd. 2. Heft i.-iv. Leipzig. 1877. New York: B. Westermann & Co. 40 cents a Heft.

De for Ager, Eng, og Have skadeligste Insekter og Smaakryb. Af W. M. Schoyen. Kristiania, 1875. 12mo, pp. 212. 8 plates.

¹ *Revision of the North American Poriferae.* With Remarks upon Foreign Species. Part II. (Memoirs of the Boston Society of Natural History, vol. ii., Part IV., No. 5. Boston, May 28, 1877. 4to, pp. 73. 3 carbon photographs.